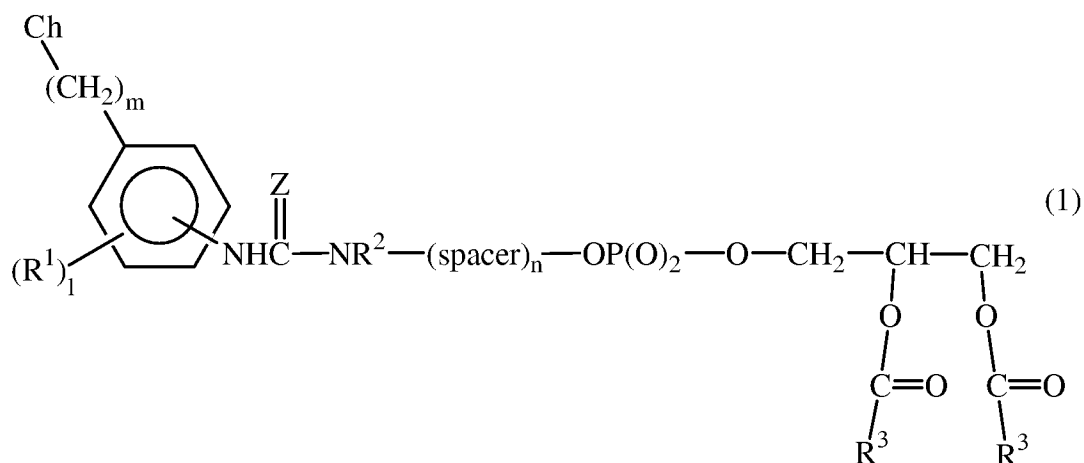


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



wherein Ch represents a chelating moiety;

m is 0-3;

each R¹ is independently a non-interfering substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, NR₂, SR, CN, NO₂, SO₃H, and R where R is alkyl or alkenyl optionally substituted by halo, or =O, and optionally containing a heteroatom, such as O, S or N;

l is 0-2;

Z is S or O;

R² is H or alkyl (1-4C);

n is ~~[[0-6]]~~ 1; and

each R³ is independently an optionally substituted saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group containing at least 10C, and

spacer is —CH₂CH₂— or includes a peptide, a pseudopeptide, and/or a polyalkylene glycol, optionally containing a cleavage site.

2. canceled.

3. (original): The compound of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the spacer is CH₂CH₂ and R² is H.

4. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is S.
5. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is H.
6. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein l is 0 and m is 1 or 0.
7. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein each R^3COO is a residue of a naturally occurring fatty acid or a mixture of said residues.
8. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is CH_3O .
9. (currently amended): The compound of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the spacer ~~comprises~~ is a peptide or a polyalkylene glycol.
10. (original): The compound of claim 1, which further comprises, associated with Ch, a paramagnetic metal ion or a radionuclide metal.
11. (original): A composition which comprises the compound of claim 1 associated with lipophilic nanoparticles or microparticles.
12. (original): A composition which comprises the compound of claim 10 associated with lipophilic nanoparticles or microparticles.
13. (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein said particles contain at least 2,000 copies of the compound of claim 1.
14. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein said particles contain at least 2,000 copies of the compound of claim 10.
15. (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein the nanoparticles or microparticles further contain a targeting agent.

16. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein the nanoparticles or microparticles further contain a targeting agent.

17. (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein said targeting agent is a receptor ligand or an antibody or fragment thereof.

18. (original): The composition of claim 16, wherein said targeting agent is a receptor ligand or an antibody or fragment thereof.

19. (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein said microparticles or nanoparticles further comprise a biologically active agent.

20. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein said microparticles or nanoparticles further comprise a biologically active agent.

21. (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein said microparticles or nanoparticles are liposomes, oil droplets, perfluorocarbon nanoparticles, lipid-coated protein particles, or lipid-coated polysaccharides.

22. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein said microparticles or nanoparticles are liposomes, oil droplets, perfluorocarbon nanoparticles, lipid-coated protein particles, or lipid-coated polysaccharides.

23. (original): A method to obtain a magnetic resonance image or an image produced by a radionuclide which method comprises imaging a tissue which is associated with the composition of claim 12.